

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
16 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Liquor Control Board for Harford County was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Majewski at the Board's office. In attendance were Commissioners Sines, Walters, Miller, and General Manager Crabbs. Chair Goddard and Board Counsel Finneran were previously excused,

MINUTES May 1

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded to approve the minutes for May 1; the vote was unanimous.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to pay the following bills:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| U.S. Treasurer | Withholding | 3831.22 |
| State Comptroller | Withholding | 1057.72 |
| ConnectPay | Accounting | 125.00 |
| Payroll | Payroll | 10368.10 |
| State Retirement | Retirement | 670.97 |
| LEAF | Copier Lease | 615.00 |
| Amy Finneran | Legal | 1942.50 |
| Amy Finneran | Subscription | 250.00 |
| Kopin, LLC | Rent | 2749.00 |
| Kopin, LLC | Rent | 120.00 |
| Malissa Roche | Maintenance | 80.00 |
| Interconnect | Telephone | 154.50 |
| Metro Data | Computer | 664.00 |
| Town Security | Maintenance | 291.50 |
| Petty Cash | Office | 157.74 |

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

1) First-Time Applicants - Havre de Grace Arts Collective - BWL

First-time applicants Haley Strong and Alexa Hauck appeared on behalf of Havre de Grace Arts Collective in connection with per diem BWL license applications that were previously approved by the Board for the "It's Lit" poetry series being held on June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12. Haley Strong is the new Executive Director and Alexa Hauck is the Director of Operations for the nonprofit and they will replace William Price and Kathryn Noe on the licenses. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve this request; the vote was unanimous.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING

1) Steelefish Grille North, L.L.C. T/A Steelefish Grille

David Steele, Member, Steelefish Grille North, L.L.C./T/A Steelefish Grille, 660 Boulton Street, Bel Air, appeared along with his attorney, Joseph F. Snee, Jr., in connection with violation of the following:

Charge (1) - Did fail to keep complete and accurate records of all alcoholic beverages purchased in violation of Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 22-1904, and Board Rule 3:06 ("BR").

- (ii) be preserved for at least 2 years in a manner that ensures permanency; and
- (iii) be made available for audit or inspection during regular business hours.

Charge (2) - Did violate Board Rule 3:14(a) – Alcohol Awareness Training (Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages Article Section 22-1903(a) and Section 4-505(f)(1)(iii).

Charge (3) - Did fail to keep on the licensed premises all records containing legal names, aliases, addresses, dates of birth, and legible photocopy of government-issued identification of all persons employed by them in violation of Board Rule 3:06 (g) (“BR”).

Charge (4) - Did violate Board Rule 2:32 (b) “Hearing Related to Violations:”

(b) All named license holders must appear at time of hearing for any violation or discussion as directed by the Board, unless previously excused by the Board.

(Ms. Robyn A. Steele, one of the named License Holders, failed to appear before the Board at the Show Cause Hearing on June 12, 2024.)

The alleged violation occurred on December 14, 2023.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded by Commissioner Sines to convene to closed session under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; the vote was unanimous. Discussion was held to determine if the license holder should be found in violation on four charges and the ranges of penalties if found in violation. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded by Commissioner Sines to return to open session; the vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to find the license holder in violation of Charge 1; the vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to find the license holder in violation of Charge 2; the vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded to find the license holder in violation of Charge 3; the vote was unanimous.

License holder Robyn Steele failed to appear for the hearing as required. As a result, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to find the license holder in violation.

On Charge 1, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to assess a fine of \$1,500.00; the vote was unanimous.

On Charge 2, motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to assess a fine of \$100.00; the vote was unanimous.

On Charge 3, motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to assess a fine of \$1,000.00; the vote was unanimous.

On Charge 4, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to assess a fine of \$250.00; the vote was unanimous.

PER DIEM LICENSES FOR APPROVAL

1) Ladew Topiary Gardens – Twilight Tuesdays – July 9, 16, 23, 30; August 6 & 13 – BWL

Per diem BWL license application was submitted by Barbara Barnhoff and Emily Emerick on behalf of Ladew Topiary Gardens for the Twilight Tuesday events being held on July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6 and 13.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1) Executive Session from May 22

Executive session was held May 22; GM Crabbs reported that the meeting was closed to discuss a personnel matter dealing with the Chief Inspector's benefit package.

2) Fine Paid: Z Food Schtor, L.L.C. T/A Z Vault

The \$100 fine for an alcohol awareness violation was paid.

3) WGAS, L.L.C. T/A Double Groove Brewing Company – Outside Event Application – 08/04

WGAS, L.L.C. T/A Double Groove Brewing Company has submitted an Outside Event Application to be used on 08/04 for their 2nd Annual Jeep Jamboree. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

4) WGAS, L.L.C. T/A Double Groove Brewing Company – Outside Event Application – 09/07

WGAS, L.L.C. T/A Double Groove Brewing Company has submitted an Outside Event Application to be used on 09/07 for their 4th Annual Beer Vinyl & Vittles art and music festival. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

5) 2024-2025 Budget

GM Crabbs will work with Chair Goddard on the letters that accompany the 2024-2025 budget that are sent to the Harford County Delegation and County Executive.

6) Automobile Claim

Chair Goddard has offered to draft a letter to the opposing insurance company in connection with the automobile claim.

7) Mayvid, Inc. T/A Aberdeen Liquors – Return of Bond

As a result of a show cause hearing held 05/10/2023, license holder paid a \$1000 bond on 06/07/2023. As there have been no subsequent violations, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to return the \$1000 bond to license holder; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF REPORT / PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

The Commissioners were reminded to leave the hearing documents on the dais.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Paul J. Majewski, II, Vice Chair



Mary Sporre, Secretary